

National Service Impact in Rhode Island

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members serving with the College Advising Corps at Brown University provide college and financial aid counseling to thousands of students across Rhode Island, including many first-generation and low-income students. According to a recent study conducted by the Stanford School of Education, students at Rhode Island high schools with a College Advising Corps AmeriCorps member are 5 percentage points more likely to attend college than students in similar schools without a member. In total, members annually serve more than 2,000 students in one or more advising sessions and more than 1,000 students in four or more sessions.

AmeriCorps NCCC

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency's mission is to protect life and property in the event of a disaster or crisis situation through a program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Rhode Island was the first state to implement a statewide Special Needs Emergency Registry. The AmeriCorps NCCC team supported a community awareness campaign and registered more than 500 individuals in the Special Needs Emergency Registry. Additionally, they completed a survey of all facilities designated as shelters in the state (with support from the Red Cross) while the state investigated the possibility of providing regional sheltering during times of disaster.

AmeriCorps VISTA

College Visions AmeriCorps VISTAs Alvaro Beltran, Gleyribel Rodriguez, and Francesca Zetar support 300 disadvantaged youth to enter, succeed in, and graduate from college. They've developed an innovative curriculum; submitted grants totaling more than \$25,000; and engaged more than 50 volunteers to provide peer mentorship, admission interview prep, college care packages, and much more. As a result, 95 percent of College Vision participants enroll in college and 67 percent graduate within five years. Alvaro is also a College Visions alum. College Vision VISTAs are increasing educational opportunity for low-income youth and strengthening the future of the state.

Senior Corps

Capitol Region RSVP of Federal Hill House started the computer literacy program "Seniors Teaching Seniors" in 2003. The program set up five computer labs across the region, including at the Veterans Resource and Recovery Center in Providence, and senior volunteers began hosting computer literacy classes. The program has evolved to continue to offer up-to-date computer literacy classes ranging from general computer usage to specific topics such as using social media, avoiding scams on the Internet, and using tablets. In 2012, 25 Capitol Region RSVP volunteer computer instructors assisted 125 older adults in learning how to use computer technology to fit their needs of keeping in touch with relatives, getting a job, or saving money by moving to paying bills online safely.

Social Innovation Fund

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), an intermediary grantee of the Social Innovation Fund, is growing Financial Opportunity Centers – a workforce development and asset-building model that boosts earnings, reduces expenses, and coaches low-income families on how to make better financial decisions – to reach 7,500 total participants. LISC has three nonprofit subgrantees in the state receiving total annual grants of \$374,000, which they match dollar-for-dollar. A rigorous evaluation will provide greater evidence about the model's impact on employment, earnings, and savings.